

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chas Vincent, on January 11, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

- Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
- Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)
- Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
- Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
- Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
- Sen. Pat Connell (R)
- Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
- Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
- Sen. Mary McNally (D)
- Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
- Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
- Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Pat Christian, Committee Secretary  
Virginia Aldrich, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 15, 1/4/2017; SB 18, 1/4/2017

**HEARING ON SB 18**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:00 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 18, Establish wildfire fuel reduction funding process.

**Proponents' Testimony** :None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:11:30 Audrey Walleser, wildland firefighter

**Informational Testimony:**

00:17:19 Julie Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

00:18:32 Bob Harrington, administrator, Forestry Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:18:54 Sen. Barrett  
00:20:01 Sen. Connell  
00:22:22 Sen. Phillips  
00:22:48 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
00:25:24 Sen. Phillips  
00:26:08 Mr. Harrington  
00:27:12 Sen. Phillips  
00:27:43 Sen. Connell  
00:31:02 Sen. Ankney  
00:31:55 Ms. Walleser  
00:32:49 Sen. Ankney  
00:33:34 Ms. Walleser  
00:34:09 Sen. Vincent  
00:34:39 Ms. Altemus, MWPA  
00:36:18 Sen. Vincent  
00:36:48 Mr. Harrington  
00:37:52 Sen. Barrett  
00:38:46 Sen. Connell

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:39:14 Sen. Connell

**HEARING ON SB 15**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:43:36 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 15, Revise collection of payment for historic rights of way.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:48:42 Harold Blattie, director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:51:04 Shawn Thomas, administrator, Trust Lands Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:51:28 Sen. Cohenour

**Committee Business:**

00:52:19 Chair Vincent

00:52:28 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved to send the letter that was drafted by staff to the Army Corp of Engineers.

**Discussion:**

00:52:48 Virginia Aldrich, Legislative Services Division

00:52:58 Chair Vincent

00:53:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

00:53:29 Chair Vincent

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 3:55

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Pat Christian, Secretary

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**Additional Documents**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([nas08aad.pdf](#))**